

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (currently amended) A method for communicating with a camera connectable to a network, the method comprising:
 3. enabling the camera to function as a unique instant messenger client for an instant messenger service by registering a unique login with the instant messenger service for the camera, and programming the unique login into the camera; and
 6. receiving messages from the camera over the network via the instant messenger service;
 8. whereby the camera, instead of a human user, acts as the instant messenger client, and becomes a buddy on the instant messenger service;
 10. sending messages to the camera over the network over the instant messenger service; and
 12. converting said messages into commands for said camera.
1. 2. (canceled)
1. 3. (previously amended) The method of claim 1, further comprising: pre-defining at least one pre-existing user of the instant messenger service with whom the camera is allowed to communicate.
4. 4. (previously amended) The method of claim 1, further comprising: sending messages to the camera over the network over the instant messenger service.
1. 5. (previously amended) The method of claim 4, further comprising: pre-defining at least one message which can be sent to the camera, and at least one action to be taken by the camera upon receiving the message.

1 6. (previously amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the messages
2 received from the camera over the network via the instant messenger service are initiated by the
3 camera in response to a pre-specified criterion being satisfied.

1 7. (previously amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the camera is a
2 webcam.

1 8. (original) The method of claim 7, wherein the webcam initiates sending a
2 message over the network via the instant messenger service when the webcam detects motion.

1 9. (canceled)

1 10. (currently amended) A method for communicating with a camera using an
2 instant messenger service, the method comprising:

3 enabling the camera to function as an instant messenger client for the instant
4 messenger service by registering a unique login with the instant messenger service for the
5 camera;

6 connecting the camera to a network;

7 receiving messages from the camera over the network over the instant messenger
8 service; and

9 sending messages to the camera over the network over the instant messenger
10 service;

11 whereby the camera, instead of a human user, acts as the instant messenger client,
12 and becomes a buddy on the instant messenger service so that direct communication with the
13 camera through the instant messenger service is possible.

1 11. (previously amended) The method of claim 10, further comprising:
2 pre-defining at least one message which can be sent to the camera, and at least
3 one action to be taken by the camera upon receiving the message.

1 12. (previously amended) The method of claim 10, wherein the messages
2 received from the camera over the network are initiated by the camera in response to a pre-
3 specified criterion being satisfied.

1 13. (currently amended) A camera enabled to function as a unique instant
2 messenger user over a network, the camera comprising:

3 an autonomous IM application module, which identifies the camera as a unique
4 instant messenger user to an instant messenger service; and

5 a network interface coupled to the autonomous IM application module, to connect
6 to the network to communicate with at least one other instant messenger user over the instant
7 messenger service;

8 whereby the camera, instead of a human user, acts as the instant messenger client,
9 and becomes a buddy on the instant messenger service so that direct communication with the
10 camera through the instant messenger service is possible.

1 14. (previously amended) The camera of claim 13, wherein the autonomous
2 imaging module initiates communication with the at least one other instant messenger user.

1 15. (previously amended) The camera of claim 13, wherein the camera is a
2 webcam.

1 16. (previously amended) The camera of claim 13, wherein the camera is
2 compliant with a Session Initiation Protocol (SIP).

1 17. (previously amended) The camera of claim 13, wherein the camera is
2 compliant with a SIP for Instant Messaging Presence Leveraging Extension protocol (SIMPLE).

1 18. (previously amended) The camera of claim 13, further comprising:
2 a predefined instructions module coupled to the autonomous IM application, to
3 instruct the camera regarding interpreting instant messages received from the at least one other
4 instant messenger user.